

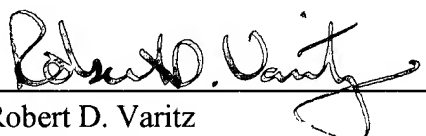
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2859.

18/Response
P. Walker
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Attorney Docket: NLN.301 (NLSN.1000B)

Mark Nelson *et al.*

February 19, 2003

Serial No.: 09/810,084

Group #: 2859

Filed: March 16, 2001

Examiner: Mirellys Jagan

For: Linear Measurement Workpiece Gripping Device

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RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
Introductory Comments

This Amendment is in the revised format according to the Office of Patent Administration Notice dated January 31, 2003. Responsive to the Office Action dated November 20, 2002, Applicants have not made any changes to the specification, claims, abstract or drawings in this patent application.

REMARKS

In the first Office Action taken with respect to the above-identified U.S. Patent Application, the Examiner rejected all claims in the application under 35 U.S.C. § 103 on the basis of a proposed combination of U.S. Patent No. 5,894,677 to Hoffman and U.S. Patent No. 1,102,436 to Richardson. Applicants strongly disagree with this conclusion of obviousness which is proposed by the Examiner.

As applicants have pointed out in previous communications exchanged with the